THE FIRST 50 YEARS

STAMPS AND COVERS

GREAT BRITAIN - 1840 TO 1890

IN 1835, A POSTAL REFORMER, ROWLAND HILL, CAME UPON THE IDEA OF PAYING POSTAGE IN ADVANCE. HE PROPOSED A UNIFORM RATE OF ONE PENCE FOR THE DELIVERY OF A "SINGLE SHEET" LETTER TO ANYWHERE IN ENGLAND.

HE ALSO PROPOSED THE USE OF AN ADHESIVE PIECE OF PAPER TO SHOW THAT POSTAGE HAD BEEN PAID IN ADVANCE. ON MAY 6, 1840, THE "PENNY BLACK" STAMP WAS RELEASED AND SUBSEQUENTLY OVER SIXTY EIGHT MILLION OF THESE STAMPS WERE RELEASED. IT IS A STAMP THAT EVERY COLLECTOR WANTS TO HAVE IN THEIR COLLECTION.

THUS STARTED "COLLECTING OF STAMPS". THIS EXHIBIT WILL SHOW EARLY USE OF STAMPS OF ENGLAND AND THE SUBSEQUENT PRACTISE OF PRINTING THE PLATE NUMBER ON THE STAMPS.